

484 greater housing accommodation for travellers, huts have been constructed at a number of places. It is proposed to construct a chain of huts in Jammu. The existing camping grounds have been improved and new ones provided. A cafe has been established at Kokarnag and a tea shop opened at Patni top. Facilities have been provided for anglers. The rules regarding fishing and shooting in the State are liberal and more and more licences are issued every year.

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701 Eight Units of the State Army have been placed, one after the other, at the disposal of the Government of India for active service outside the State. Of these, the two Mountain Batteries and the Artillery Training Centre have been transferred to the Indian Army permanently. The demand for recruits is being met, and the Government of India have raised a large number of recruits for the Indian Army from the State.

652 Against the expenditure of Rs. 8,81,500 incurred by the Government on the Army Department in connection with the measures connected with the war during 1939-40, the expenditure for war purposes in the Army Department rose to Rs. 25,62,000 during 1941-42 and Rs. 22,75,000 during 1942-43. The total Army expenditure in 1941-42 amounted to Rs. 76 lakhs. The pay of all ranks serving in the State Army was recently revised, and the rates of Kit and H. M. Allowances were raised from Rs. 50 and Rs. 15 respectively to Rs. 120 and Rs. 50 respectively.

648 The State forces have distinguished themselves in the battles of Keran (Eretrea) and Damascus (Syria). His Highness presented eighteen completely equipped motor ambulances, and also placed a portion of the Kashmir House, Delhi, at the disposal of the Government of India free of rent for the accommodation of Government offices. Recently, His Highness placed his Lock-heed plane at the disposal of the Government of India for use in connection with the war.

● 747 His Highness has set up an influential War Aid Committee with Her Highness the Maharani Sahiba as President to raise funds for providing comforts for the troops. His Highness subscribes a sum of Rs. 1,000 per mensem

- 747 from his Privy Purse towards the aims and objects of the Committee. The rest of the members of His Highness' family contribute Rs. 850 per mensem. In addition to the monthly contributions, His Highness has been making big donations to the funds of the Kashmir War Aid Committee from the savings effected by curtailment of expenditure on a number of ceremonies in connection with His Highness' person. Government servants also contribute voluntarily one per cent. of their monthly gross salaries to the funds of the War Aid Committee. Provincial District and Tehsil War Aid Committees affiliated to the Central Committee, have been formed to collect funds in aid of the war and to disseminate correct information regarding happenings in connection with the war. The total receipts of the War Fund up to the end of June 1943 amounted to Rs. 6,91,586 of which Rs. 5,46,213 have been spent in providing amenities to troops and other activities calculated to contribute towards winning the war. A goodly collection of trinkets was collected and forwarded to Her Excellency the Marchioness of Linlithgow for her Silver Trinket Fund by Her Highness the Maharani Sahiba who issued an appeal for trinkets of gold or silver, broken bits of gold or silver ornaments, toys, etc., and old *sari* borders of brocade. Ladies' Working Parties have been organized and the co-operation of boys' and girls' schools and Hospitals as well as of private medical practitioners and medical officers in Government employ has been secured for the purpose of assisting in the production of articles required for the troops at the front. As a result of the labours of Ladies' Working Parties, the War Aid Committee has sent parcels of goods for the use of forces overseas. In addition to knitted woollen garments, gramophones with records and needles, cigarettes and other articles are being sent from time to time.

- 648 To commemorate the visit to India of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and Madam Chiang, China Day was celebrated throughout the State on the 7th March 1942. On this occasion, a sum of Rs. 20,393-4-0 was collected in voluntary contributions in aid of China War Charities and the War Aid Committee added a sum of Rs. 5,000 to this amount and sent a cheque for Rs. 25,393-4-0 to Madam Chiang.

- 747 In response to His Excellency the Viceroy's appeal,

- 747 His Highness 'adopted' 5 Polish refugee children in British India for a period of one year. The War Aid Committee similarly 'adopted' 10 of these children for the same period.

His Highness has also contributed large sums of money from his Privy Purse for particular purposes connected with or arising out of the war.

- 722 His Highness visited the Middle East in October 1941 and inspected his own as well as other Indian troops there. He broadcast a message from there calling upon the people in this country to put forth further efforts in the war and inspiring them with hope in the ultimate triumph of justice.

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- 656 Long before the regulation of prices of foodstuffs was introduced in many parts of India, His Highness' Government had set up the Food Control Department for the control and distribution of *shali*, the chief staple of the Valley. The arrangement continues to the present day and *shali* is sold to consumers in Srinagar at fixed rates in Government controlled sale centres. Over a year ago, however, the soaring prices of other foodstuffs and the general food situation in the valley, as a whole, caused much anxiety, and His Highness' Government had to adopt several measures to relieve the situation. The measures included the fixation of the maximum sale prices of food-grains, restrictions on the movement of food-grains, restrictions on the export of potatoes, *til*, *sarson*, *alai* and oil extracted therefrom and the opening of shops in Srinagar and certain towns and villages in the *mufassils*, where the poor classes of people could get grains at fixed rates. Food-grains were made available in deficit areas at low prices, at a considerable loss to the Government. Boards of Food Control, with representatives of different communities and interests, were constituted in both the provinces to deal with questions of policy relating to food-grains. Rationing of other important essentials of life, like fuel and sugar, was introduced. A Department of Supplies was set up.

- 657 Early in January 1943, His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur placed at the disposal of the Government a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 to serve as the nucleus of a Fund for